

AL / 1592

Copy of draft letter from  
Alfred Emmott, M.P.

30 Ennismore Gardens  
S.W.

May 14, 1911

My dear Prime Minister,

Hearing some rumour that the difficulties of giving women recognition of the kind they desire are found to be very serious I spoke to Nash on the matter on Friday week. He asked me whether if it came to a choice between a special order for women and doing nothing at all for them women would prefer the former or the latter alternative.

It seems very ~~undesirable~~ undesirable that the Coronation Year should pass without some special acknowledgment of the work women are doing increasingly and I must express a decided opinion that a special order (or form of recognition confined to women) would be better than nothing at all and would be so regarded by them. I think such an honour would be accepted by the women to whom it was offered as a mark of their work being recognised with some measure of ~~equality~~ equality with that of men. This is my wife's view as well as my own.

The particular case of special interest to me is that of Mrs. Lees. I should feel bitterly disappointed were nothing done for her. So far as she is concerned I do not think that, if honours for women in some existing men's order are impracticable, she would refuse any suitable recognition. As for Oldham, I have explained its very simple views on such matters in a previous letter.

(unsigned)